



State of Wisconsin \ DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Tommy G. Thompson, Governor  
George E. Meyer, Secretary

Box 7921  
101 South Webster Street  
Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7921  
TELEPHONE 608-266-2621  
FAX 608-267-3579  
TDD 608-267-6897

June 12, 1999

IN REPLY REFER TO: 1650

Ms. Mary O'Brien  
Transportation Environmental Management  
313 Price Place, Suite 207  
Madison, WI 53705

SUBJECT: Endangered Resources Information Review (Log Number 99-72)

Dear Ms. O'Brien:

The Bureau of Endangered Resources has reviewed the project area described in your letter for the proposed engineering and environmental study of USH 14/61 between Viroqua and Westby.

Our Natural Heritage Inventory (NHI) data files contain the following information on rare resources for the project corridor located in T14N R5W and R4W, T13N R5W and 4W, and T12N R5W and R4W in Vernon County. In addition to the actual project site, I am providing endangered resource information for an area within five miles of the project's location. This information is provided so impacts to nearby endangered resources can be assessed and to assist in determining which rare species may occur in the project's impact area if appropriate habitat exists. If the described habitat types occur in the project's impact area, then species that occur nearby may be present. Species information provided includes the location, date of the most recent observation, and other information useful in planning protection measures. Rare species occurring within or near the project corridor include:

*Elaphe obsoleta* (black rat snake), a State Special Concern snake, occurs in the

The observation date for this occurrence record is 1994. This species prefers moist, wooded east and north slopes of bluffs along rivers. The reproductive season extends from late May through early October.

*Crotalus horridus* (timber rattlesnake), a State Special Concern snake, occurs in

The observation date for this record is 1992. It also historically occurred in deciduous forests and croplands during the summer and steep, rugged bluffs and rocky outcrops during the spring and fall.

*Thelypteris hexagonoptera* (broad beech fern), a State Special Concern plant, occurs in

The observation date for this occurrence record is 1985. This species prefers rich deciduous woods and is limited to the southern half of the state.

Location information intentionally deleted

Quality Natural Resources Management  
Through Excellent Customer Service



Location information intentionally deleted

In addition to the above information, our data files also contain historical records (records 25 years or older) of rare species known to occur within the vicinity of the project corridor. Unfortunately, the Bureau does not have more current survey information documenting the continued existence of these species in this area. I am including these older records as an indication of species which may still occur in the project area if appropriate habitat exists:

*Orobanche uniflora* (one-flowered broomrape), a State Special Concern plant, has been reported from moist wooded areas at the base of hills in                      This saprophytic species prefers mesic woods and blooms from May to June.

*Minuartia dawsonensis* (rock stitchwort), a State Special Concern plant, has been reported from dry sandstone ledges in                      This species is associated with dolomite and sandstone ledges on dry and moist cliffs and in dry prairies. Flowering occurs during July with fruiting from July to September.

*Solidago sciaphila* (cliff goldenrod), a State Special Concern plant, has been reported from limestone ridges on goat prairies in                      This species is endemic to the Driftless Area and prefers exposed sandstone cliffs. Blooming occurs during August and September.

Special Concern species are species about which some problem of abundance or distribution is suspected but not yet proved. The main purpose of this category is to focus attention on certain species before they become endangered or threatened.

A number of **Goat Prairie Communities** also occur in the project corridor. These bluff prairie communities occurs primarily in the Driftless Area on very thin soils of limestone ridges and steep hillsides, usually with a southwest aspect. Vegetation is dominated mostly by short grasses or low shrubs, and often has a unique assemblage of plants and animals associated with it. This community is maintained edaphically rather than by fire. These are sensitive areas that should be avoided in project planning.

If the proposed project will impact any of the habitats mentioned above, I recommend that these habitats be avoided during the planning stage, if at all possible. If avoidance is not possible, surveys may be recommended to determine the location of the respective species or communities in the project corridor. If rare species or communities are located in the proposed project impact area, then construction location may need to be altered or other measures taken to avoid impacting them.

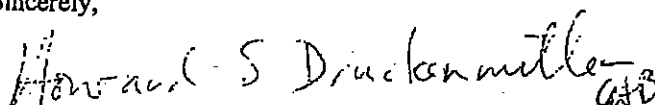
The specific location of endangered resources is sensitive information that has been provided to you for the analysis and review of this project. Exact locations should not be released or reproduced in any publicly disseminated documents.

Comprehensive endangered resource surveys have not been completed for the project area. As a result, our data files may be incomplete. The lack of additional known occurrences does not preclude the possibility that other endangered resources may be present.

**This letter is for informational purposes and only addresses endangered resource issues. This letter does not constitute Department of Natural Resources authorization of the project and does not exempt the project from securing necessary permits and approvals from the Department.**

Please contact Helen Elise Kitchel at (608) 266-5248 if you have any questions about this information.

Sincerely,



Howard S. Druckenmiller  
Director, Bureau of Endangered Resources



## MENOMINEE INDIAN TRIBE OF WISCONSIN

P.O. Box 910  
Keshena, WI 54135-0910

June 23, 1999

Wisconsin Department of Transportation  
Beth C. Price  
3550 Mormon Coulee Road  
La Crosse, WI. 54601-6767

RE: Project I.D. 1646-07-01  
County: Vernon

Dear Beth:

I have received and reviewed your project correspondence. At this time the Menominee Tribe has no known sites within the project area. However, we would like to be considered interested parties, and should any archaeological or cultural resources be uncovered please notify us. The Menominee Tribe is always concerned with potential impacts to ancestral remains, or cultural resources.

A second concern revolves around the use of borrow in your project. Can you tell us if the borrow for your project is coming from a source that has been surveyed for archaeological resources?

As always, we ask your project keep our cultural interests in mind. Historically Menominee cultural interests were overlooked, and have been disproportionately impacted by the destruction, or disturbance of burials, sacred sites, and traditional cultural properties.

In closing, we would like to remind you that it is always possible an inadvertent discovery will occur. Should that happen, we request you notify us. If you have any questions please call me at (715) 799-5258.

Respectfully;

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chad Waukechon".

Chad Waukechon  
Cultural Planner  
Historic Preservation,  
Menominee Indian Tribe



## **HO-CHUNK HERITAGE PRESERVATION DEPARTMENT**

**ARCHEOLOGY+BURIAL SITES PROTECTION+HISTORY+REPATRIATION**

P.O. Box 667 Black River Falls, WI 54615 Phone (715) 284-7181 or (800) 561-9918 FAX (715) 284-7449

June 28, 1999

Beth C. Price  
WisDOT  
3550 Mormon Coulee Road  
La Crosse, WI 54601-6767

Dear Beth C. Price:

RE: I.D. 1646-07-01, Vernon County

Thank you for your letter of notification dated June 14, 1999, pursuant to Section 106, National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) as amended through 1992 by the National Historic Preservation Act Amendments of 1992. Thank you for informing us the WisDOT is in the process of developing and evaluating alternatives for the above proposed project. You have requested comments by June 30, 1999.

The Ho-Chunk Nation would discourage implementation of the above proposed construction project I.D. 1646-07-01, Vernon County. Although the Nation does not have specific information showing the existence of prehistoric or historic sites at or near the above proposed Vernon County construction site, history has shown that members of the Ho-Chunk Nation have occupied and/or lived in much of the State of Wisconsin.

At the earliest convenience, please send all available information on the proposed construction project including a copy of the Major Investment Study, Draft Environmental Impact Statement and any other studies pertinent to the project area.

Thank you for your attention in this regard.

Sincerely,  
HO-CHUNK CULTURAL RESOURCES DIVISION

  
Susette La Mere, Manager

C: Chloris Lowe, Executive Director Heritage Preservation  
President Jacob Lonetree, Ho-Chunk Nation  
Enclosures



# State Historical Society of Wisconsin

816 State Street ♦ Madison, Wisconsin 53706-1488 ♦ 608/264-6400 ♦ Fax: 264-6504

Division of Historic Preservation  
608/264-6500

June 29, 1999

Ms. Shirley Stathas  
Department of Transportation  
Office of Environmental Analysis  
Room 451  
Hill Farms State Office Building  
Madison, Wisconsin

SHSW#: 95-1428/VE  
RE: USH 14/61/STH 27 Expansion Study: Viroqua to  
Westby  
I.D.#: 1646-07-00/Vernon County

Dear Ms. Stathas,

We have reviewed "Proposed Archaeological Corridor Study Methodology for the Viroqua Bypass", prepared by Lynn Rusch and Kenneth Karstens. The survey methodology is consistent with other corridors survey methodologies which have been approved by our office. We look forward to reviewing the report detailing the results of the archeological survey when it becomes available. When the survey has been completed, please provide two copies of the archeologist's report for our review and comment. Please ensure that the archeologist's report is accompanied by our project identification number (SHSW#: 95-1428/VE).

We remind you that 36 CFR 800.3 includes the requirement that you seek information, as appropriate to the undertaking, from parties likely to have knowledge of or concerns with historic properties in the project area-such as Indian tribes, local governments, and public and private organizations.

If you have any questions concerning these matters, please call me at (608) 264-6507.

Sincerely,

Sherman Banker  
Compliance Archeologist

**Forest County Potawatomi Community  
P.O. Box 340  
Crandon, WI 54520**

**Historical/Cultural Center**

July 8, 1999

Ms. Beth Price  
WDOT District 5  
3550 Mormon Coulee Road  
La Crosse, WI 54601

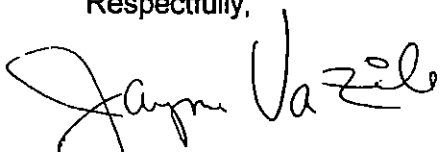
Re: Vernon County  
ID 1646-07-01

Dear Ms. Price:

We have received your letter concerning the aforementioned project. We are very much interested in the results of the records and literature search and the archaeological survey. We are also concerned about any "ground disturbing activity" that may occur as a result of the project that could disturb "undiscovered cultural resources." An archaeological survey does not detect all cultural resources and human remains within the survey area. It is always possible that during construction an inadvertent discovery may occur, it is at that time we would like to be notified.

The Forest County Potawatomi are interested in this project area. At several times in our history we were known to occupy many areas in what is presently the State of Wisconsin. This is why we are particularly interested in this project. Please forward records and literature searches, as well as the archaeological surveys for our files and review. If you have any questions please call me at 715-478-7476.

Respectfully,



Mr. Jayme Van Zile (Magizi)  
Researcher  
Forest County Potawatomi

CC: Clarice Werle



Natural Resources Conservation Service

United States Department of Agriculture  
Natural Resources Conservation Service

220 Airport Lane  
Viroqua, WI 54665

Phone (608) 637-8321  
Fax (608) 637-8323

August 20, 1999

Dan Dupies  
P. O. Box 2090  
Milwaukee, WI 53201

Dear Dan,

The following refers to your 8/19/99 letter requesting information concerning the Westby-Viroqua bypass.

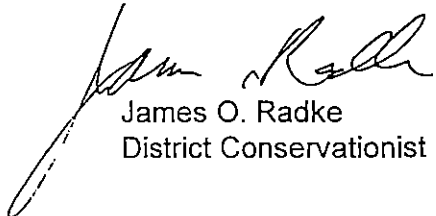
1. Your proposed locations cross over the headwaters of the Bad Axe, Coon Creek and West Fork Kickapoo rivers, which are all high quality trout streams. The crossing are over upstream tributaries. The specific stream locations can be found on USGS maps. I do not believe any of the routes crosses directly over any streams large enough to hold trout, but trout are found downstream within 1 - 2 miles of several of the crossings.
2. The Raaum dam is located on Springville road north of Viroqua as shown on the enclosed map. It is a PL 566 flood control dam built by NRCS, USDA with the Local Land Conservation Committee/ Vernon County. It is now maintained by Vernon county, contact Phil Hahn 637-5480 for specific questions.
3. A hydric list for Vernon County is enclosed.
4. There are many sinkholes in the area. I outlined one in the enclosed map. You will need to contact individual landowners because many are found on the back 40's, and out of site of roads. These, of course, identify areas of underground caves and openings, which could cause stability problems.
5. The three chimney rock formation is very important locally. It is a sandstone formation that shoots about 50' into the air and is a local monument. I believe it is also on the National historical list. You might get historical information from the Vernon county historical society, 637-7396. Your location C1 comes very close, and I recommend a geologist be involved to insure the construction does not disturb the stability of the structure.
6. I do not believe there are any organized drainage districts in this area. The Wisconsin Dept of Agriculture in Madison maintains a list. 608 224-4627.
7. See DNR wildlife biologist Dave Mathes about the wildlife. 637-3938. The routes shown on more or less on top of the ridge, and rather void of habitat because this is

some of the better farmland in the county and most of the wildlife habitat has been removed for growing crops. Proper environmental planting of wildlife shrubs and native grasses could enhance the current wildlife populations.

8. One Ag stat you need to know about is the existence of contour strip cropped fields can be very hard to farm if a road cuts through the strips. Unlike regular square fields, which can be easily farmed if divided, each of the contour strips might become extremely hard to farm because the farmer has to stay on the contour, which prevents him from changing his tillage and planting directions. Look at the Vernon county farm for an example of the numerous short fields that will be left.
9. There is a county Ag Preservation plan. Call John Zinn 637-5480, Vernon county Land Conservation Department.
10. Harry Baller Chairs the Farm committee that will know about county farm lease agreements. 608 489-2288.
11. I think you should be considering the amount of prime farmland destroyed with each alternative route.
12. Another consideration and opportunity is to seed native grasses and forbs rather than the regular cool season introduced grasses. We have been encouraging landowners to plant these species. For very little extra cost, this would be a real environmental benefit.
13. One observation that I have is that route S2 will be restricting future growth of Viroqua to the north. I think the route between C& and Highway 14 could be shifted north a mile or so to allow for undivided growth.

Let me know if I can provide further information.

Sincerely,



James O. Radke  
District Conservationist



# WESTBY

City Clerk/Treasurer  
Works Department  
Phone (608) 634-3214  
Fax (608) 634-3274

200 N. Main  
Westby, WI 54667

Electric & Water Utility  
Phone (608) 634-3416  
Fax (608) 634-3274

August 23, 1999

CH2MHill  
411 E. Wisconsin Ave.  
Suite 1600  
Milwaukee, WI. 53202-4421

Dear Dan Dupies;

The officials of the City of Westby are opposed to alternates (N-1) and (C-1) as possible bypass routes for Hwy 14/61 between Viroqua and Westby. Our primary concerns and opposition to these alternatives are basically for the financial loss that we project would occur for our entire community. Local businesses and tourism will definitely be negatively impacted with a bypass route that is far away from Westby's corporate limits. It is our opinion that tourists and as well as regular vehicular traffic that can not see a city from the highway, will not stop in our area to purchase local products. Signs which state that a city and stores are located at a certain exit will not attract tourism in rural areas such as Vernon County, especially since we are located within a 25 minute drive of the City of La Crosse.

We are also concerned with the duplication of expensive road systems. The City Council and I have been told by the State Department of Transportation that US Hwy 14/61 between Viroqua and Westby will probably have to be increased to 4 lanes by 2010 to 2015, whether a bypass is built or not. The Council and I think that it is a more prudent decision to save the money that would have been spent on the (N-1) and (C-1) bypass, and use that money to upgrade existing US Hwy 14/61 to 4 lanes as soon as it is necessary without disturbing large areas of rich Vernon County farmland.

Please feel free to contact me directly if you have any concerns or question regarding this letter.

Sincerely;



Ron Paulsrud, Mayor City of Westby

## **VERNON COUNTY ZONING**

P.O. Bx. 306, Viroqua, WI 54665

Fax: 608-637-8750

Telephone: 608-637-7018

Trent M. Strang, Administrator

Pat Danielson, Assist. Administrator

August 24, 1999

Dan Dupies  
CH2MHILL  
P.O. Box 2090  
Milwaukee, WI 53201-2090

RE: Wesby-Viroqua Corridor Study, Vernon County, Project I.D. 1646-07-01

Dear Mr. Dupies:

Thank you for the opportunity to respond regarding the above project. Currently the only zoning my office is responsible for is floodplain, shoreland/wetland zoning. Individual townships may have their own ordinances and you may wish to contact the respected town clerks.

There are no shoreland or wetland mapped areas in the proposed areas. I have concerns with the Central Segment, which crosses Springville Road. The Vernon County Board of Supervisors recently adopted a HAZARD RATING ASSESSMENT for Bad Axe Structure #2 (Rauum) dam. This assessment provides Regional Flood Elevations (RFE) should the dam fail during a 100-year flood.

The location that the proposed corridor crosses Springville road is located in the hydraulic shadow of the Rauum Dam. The county would be very restrictive on the amount of fill that could be placed at this location. Should bridging be used to cross the valley the county would approve DOT engineered plans which would address the RFE.

Floodplain determinations for other low areas not affected by structures such as the Rauum dam are made by using Vernon County's U.S. Geological Soil Survey Floodplain Maps dated 1968. Due to the inaccuracies of the Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) we do not use the FIRM maps to make determinations. The following findings are based on the Soil Survey maps.

Regarding the West corridor. There are fingers of floodplain in Sections 5, 7 & 18, T13N, R4W in the Town of Viroqua. These are minor floodplain areas that can be addressed with culverts or small bridges. There is no floodplain in Sections 5 and 6, T12N, R4W, Town of Viroqua.

The Central and East corridor do not contain floodplain areas of consequence.

Sincerely,



Trent M. Strang  
Vernon County Sanitarian & Z.A.



## Wisconsin Department of Transportation

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August 25, 1999

Dan Dupies  
CH2M Hill  
411 E. Wisconsin Ave., Suite 1600  
Milwaukee, WI 53202-2090

Viroqua-Westby Corridor Study  
Vernon Co.

Division of Transportation  
Infrastructure Development  
Bureau of Aeronautics  
4802 Sheboygan Avenue, Room 701  
P. O. Box 7914  
Madison, WI 53707-7914

Telephone: (608) 266-3351  
Facsimile (FAX): (608) 267-6748  
TTY (Teletypewriter): (608) 266-3351

Dear Dan:

Thank you for providing me the opportunity to comment on your alternatives study on the subject project. The Viroqua Municipal Airport has two landing surfaces, a northeast-southwest turf strip and Runway 11/29 which is asphalt and 3,350' long. This is a growing airport with immediate need for more hangar space to house new aircraft on the field. The airport does not have an instrument approach at this time, however we are very concerned with maintaining open approaches to this runway so that one may be implemented in the future. New technology will allow instrument approaches to airports where they were not practical in the past.

Two of the alternate alignments could have impacts on the airport, C-1 and C-4. Although alternative C-4 appears to be farther away from the airport than existing Hwy 14 it also appears that this location is higher than existing Hwy 14. I don't expect that this alignment would interfere with the northeast approach to the turf strip however I cannot be certain without vertical information. Alignment C-1 is of greater concern to me. This alignment would block the only direction for expansion of Runway 11/29. It may also prevent the airport from being able to establish a high quality instrument approach in the future. If this alignment could be located another 1,500' west the impact to the airport would be insignificant.

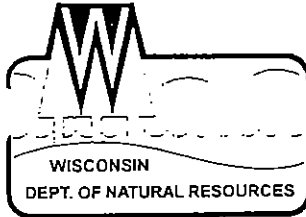
I am very interested in your proposed project and would appreciate updates as you progress with the study. If you have any questions or would like to meet to discuss the project in relation to the airport my number is (608) 267-5273.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mark A. Arnold".

Mark A. Arnold, P.E.  
Airport Development Engineer

cc: Mike Skildum, Manager  
Beth Price, WIDOT, La Crosse District



## State of Wisconsin \ DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Tommy G. Thompson, Governor  
George E. Meyer, Secretary  
Scott A. Humrickhouse, Regional Director

La Crosse Service Center  
3550 Mormon Coulee Road  
La Crosse, Wisconsin 54601  
Telephone 608-785-9000  
FAX 608-785-9990

September 8, 1999

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Mr. Dan Dupies  
CH2M Hill  
P.O. Box 2090  
Milwaukee, WI 53201-2090

SUBJECT: Project ID: 1646-07-01  
Project Title: Westby-Viroqua Corridor  
Highway: USH 14/61  
County: Vernon

Dear Mr. Dupies:

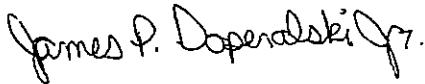
The following comments are in response to your request for comments regarding the Westby-Viroqua Corridor Study:

1. The majority of the landscape included in this study consists of agricultural fields with the rest of the upland consisting of fencerows, wooded ravines and isolated woodlots. There are no wetlands located in the study area. All of the corridor alignment alternatives will impact the landscape by severing contiguous landscape. Roadway maintenance and expansion can further impact the surrounding landscape
2. Impacts to wildlife caused by a new corridor may include physical displacement (footprint of roadway itself), loss of habitat due to the severing of contiguous landscape, noise generated from the roadway, and secondary impacts.
3. Headwaters of several streams are located within the study area. The Bad Axe River system, which includes the North Fork, South Fork and the Springville Branch, are located on the east side of the central and southern segments. All streams in the Bad Axe River system are classified as class III trout water. Hornby Creek, located on the east side of the southern section is classified as class I trout water. Seas Branch Creek, located near CTH Y on the west side of the central segment, is classified as class I trout water. Cook Creek, located on the west side of the southern section is classified as class II trout water. Maple Dale Creek located on the west side of the southern section is classified as class III trout water. Several of the alignment alternatives have the potential to impact these headwaters. Options C-2 and S-1 have the potential to affect the headwaters of the Bad Axe River system. Option C-7 has the potential to affect the headwaters of Seas Branch Creek. Option S-2 (eastern most alignment) has the potential to affect the headwaters of Maple Dale Creek and Cook Creek. The Department prefers an alignment in which impacts to the headwaters of the surrounding streams are avoided. Each alignment alternative along with a no build alternative must have its impacts to the surrounding environment described in order for the Department to be able to determine its preferred option.

4. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Bureau of Endangered Resources (BER) must be consulted regarding potential impacts to any federal or state threatened, endangered, or special concern species within the project area. Lisie Kitchel of BER can be contacted at 608-266-5248.
5. Indirect or secondary impacts also have the potential to cause adverse environmental impacts. WisDOT needs to work with the local communities and county to assure any new development as result of the new corridor is compatible with existing land use plans. If there are no land use plans WisDOT will have to determine how to incorporate the corridor with the wishes of the residents as to the direction they want to take their community in the future. Projections of secondary development and ways to deal with these developments must be made for each corridor alternative before the Department could comment on potential environmental impacts resulting from secondary impacts.

The above comments are provided for your use in project development and should be discussed in detail in the EIS. I look forward to working with you to find a corridor alignment alternative that minimizes environmental impacts while providing safe transportation. Should you have any questions, please contact me at 608-789-5511.

Sincerely,



James P. Dopersalski Jr.  
Environmental Analysis and Review Specialist

- c. Tom Lovejoy - Eau Claire  
Dave Vetrano - La Crosse  
Dave Matheys - Viroqua  
Lisie Kitchel - BER, Madison



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

ST. PAUL DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS CENTRE  
190 FIFTH STREET EAST  
ST. PAUL, MN 55101-1638

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

September 10, 1999

Construction-Operations  
Regulatory (99-07422-BCN)

Mr. Dan Dupies  
CH2M Hill  
411 E. Wisconsin Avenue  
Suite 1600  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202-4421

Dear Mr. Dupies:

We have received your letter dated August 19, 1999, requesting our comments on the Westby-Viroqua Corridor Study, project ID# 1646-07-01.

Pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, the Corps requires permits for the discharge of dredged and fill material into waters and wetlands of the United States. Your letter stated that a review of the Wisconsin Wetland Inventory (WWI) map did not show any wetlands in the project corridor. The WWI map usually does not show the presence of farmed wetlands in agricultural areas. We would suggest that you contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Vernon County and view their wetland mapping for the agricultural areas of the project.

Our general observation is that the initial range of alternatives within the study corridor are adequate. If you have any questions regarding these comments, please contact Bruce Norton in our La Crosse office at (608) 784-8236. In any correspondence or inquiries, please refer to the Regulatory number shown above.

Sincerely,

*for* Char M. Hauger  
Chief, Regulatory Branch

# WESTBY

City Clerk/Treasurer  
Public Works Department  
Phone (608) 634-3214  
Fax (608) 634-3274

200 N. Main  
Westby, WI 54667

Electric & Water Utility  
Phone (608) 634-3416  
Fax (608) 634-3274

September 15, 1999

Dan Dupies  
CH2MHill  
411 E Wisconsin Ave. Suite 1600  
Milwaukee, WI 53202-4421

Dear Mr. Dupies:

In response to your telephone conversation and fax on September 9th, a special city council meeting was held on Tuesday, September 14 with all of the businesses and residential property owners on Main Street.

The City of Westby is opposed to the N-6 bypass route. The safety issue of four lanes curb to curb through our city was considered. It is difficult today to cross our Main Street and it would become much more difficult to get from one side of Main Street to the other side. It is very difficult to back out of all the driveways on Main Street right now. This too would become much more difficult and dangerous. With the loss of all parking on Main Street, it is felt that our downtown businesses would be hurt more by that than the increased traffic.

The City of Westby is asking the Department of Transportation to try to locate the bypass route N-3, N-4 or maybe even N-7 with an off ramp as close to the City as possible.

Please see the attached copy of September 14th Council minutes.

Sincerely,



Ron Paulsrud  
Mayor

## Forward Westby-Westby Chamber of Commerce

◆◆◆  
PO Box 94 ♦ Westby, WI, 54667  
Phone 608-634-4011

September 29, 1999

Dan Dupies  
CH2M Hill  
411 E Wisconsin Ave. Suite 1600  
Milwaukee WI 53202

Mr. Dupies:

During the September 21, 1999 meeting of the whole, our organization passed a resolution opposing suggested bypass options N1, C1, S1, N3 and C5.

As a majority we (the businesses of Westby) feel that in order to serve our interests a bypass of Westby should be as close to town as possible, offering multiple access points to the town and Westby should be easily visible to travelers on a bypass.

Also the issue was raised as to whether or not the DOT will actually use the results that come from your study as the final routing of such a bypass. There is some concern that we may be involved in a "Hoop jumping smoke and mirrors effort."

Regardless, these are the organizations official views of the bypass options. We wish to be fully involved in the design phase of the bypass project and look forward to the opportunity to work with the DOT in that respect.

Thank you for the considerations,

Sincerely,



David J. Sutton  
President

cc: Beth Price, Ron Paulsrud





# United States Department of the Interior

## FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Green Bay ES Field Office  
1015 Challenger Court  
Green Bay, Wisconsin 54311-8331  
Telephone 920/465-7440  
FAX 920/465-7410

September 30, 1999

Mr. Dan Dupies  
Project Manager  
CH2MHILL  
411 E. Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 1600  
Milwaukee, WI 53202-4421

re: Westby-Viroqua Corridor Study  
Project I.D. 1546-07-01  
Vernon County, Wisconsin

Dear Mr. Dupies:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has received your letter dated August 16, 1999, requesting comments on the subject project. Due to staff time constraints and priority work activities, we are able to only review your project for potential impacts to federally-listed threatened and endangered species or those proposed for listing. Be advised that other environmental concerns may be associated with this project such as wetland and stream impacts, erosion control needs, and effects on state-listed threatened or endangered species. State or federal permits may be needed, as well, if stream or wetland impacts will occur. If resource impacts are expected to occur, we recommend that you forward this project to the appropriate Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources office for their review.

Please provide us copies of any future review documents that may be associated with this project or of future projects you may be planning that would require Service review. This will allow us to keep our files current. We will provide comments as time and work priorities allow.

### Federally-Listed Threatened and Endangered Species

A review of information in our files indicates that the following federally-listed threatened or endangered species occur in Vernon County:

<u>Classification</u>	<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Habitat</u>
threatened	bald eagle	<u>Haliaeetus</u> <u>leucocephalus</u>	breeding and wintering
endangered	Higgins' eye pearly mussel	<u>Lampsilis</u> <u>higginsii</u>	Mississippi River
threatened	northern monkshood	<u>Aconitum</u> <u>noveboracense</u>	north facing slopes

Due to the nature and location of the proposed activities, we conclude that the above listed species will not be affected. This precludes the need for further action on this project as required by the 1973 Endangered Species Act, as amended. Should the project be modified or new information become available that indicates listed or proposed species may be affected, consultation should be initiated.

We appreciate the opportunity to respond. Questions pertaining to these comments can be directed to Mr. Joel Thick by calling 920-465-7440.

Sincerely,

Janet M. Smith  
Field Supervisor

C-14

# Advisory Council On Historic Preservation

The Old Post Office Building  
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, #809  
Washington, DC 20004

DEC 14 1999

Jaclyn Lawton  
Environmental Programs Engineer  
Federal Highway Administration  
Highpoint Office Park  
567 D'Onofrio Drive, Suite 100  
Madison, Wisconsin 53719-2814

REF: USH 14 Westby/Viroqua Corridor Bypass Study  
Project ID: 1646-07-01  
Vernon County, Wisconsin


Dear Ms. Lawton:

On December 8, 1999, we received your letter indicating that the referenced undertaking may have an adverse effect on properties considered eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. In accordance with the Council's regulations, "Protection of Historic Properties" (36 CFR Part 800), specifically 36 CFR § 800.6(a)(1), a Federal agency must notify the Council to determine our participation when an undertaking will adversely affect historic properties. That notification must be accompanied by the documentation specified in 36 CFR § 800.11(e).

According to your letter, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has yet not completed the appropriate documentation needed to comply with 36 CFR § 800.11(e). Accordingly, FHWA should submit the completed documentation along with its notification of adverse effect to the Council pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.6(a)(1). Upon receipt of this information, we will notify you within fifteen days of our decision to participate in consultation. Of course, FHWA may invite the Council's participation at any time during the Section 106 process.

Should you have any questions, please contact Laura Henley Dean, Ph.D., at (202) 606-8527 or by e-mail at [ldean@achp.gov](mailto:ldean@achp.gov).

Sincerely,

*for*   
Don L. Klima  
Director  
Office of Planning and Review



Letter based on initial historic resources  
inventory for 1996 Study

## State Historical Society of Wisconsin

Division of Historic Preservation

816 State Street • Madison, Wisconsin 53706-1488

☎ (608) 264-6500 • FAX (608) 264-6404

April 25, 1996

Bob Newbery, Historian  
OEA/Wisconsin Department of Transportation  
Room #451  
Hill Farms State Office Building

IN REPLY PLEASE REFER TO SHSW: #95-1428/VE, 96-5007/VE  
RE: USH 14; Viroqua to Westby  
ID: 1646-07-00/1647-07-00/Vernon

Dear Mr. Newbery:

We have reviewed the architectural/historical report as prepared by Tim Heggland for the two above-referenced projects as required for compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and 36 CFR Part 800: Protection of Historic Properties, the regulations of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation governing the Section 106 review process and have the following comments to make.

We believe that the following individual properties may be potentially eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

### City of Viroqua

- Ramsland/Martin Bekkedal House (Map Code 1)
- Vernon County Normal School (Map Code 2)
- Our Savior's Lutheran Church (Map Code 3)
- Good Shephard Lutheran Church (Map Code 4)
- United Methodist Church (Map Code 5)
- Col. Cyrus M. Butt House (Map Code 6)
- Unknown House (Map Code 7)
- \* Bert & Mary Cunningham Farmstead (Map Code 8)
- Stephen Stephenson Farmstead (Map Code 9)

### City of Westby

- 109 N. Main St. (Map Code 66)
- ca. 300 S. Main St. ((Map Code 58)

Please have prepared two copies of the necessary documentation (SHSW Form HP-02-10) for a formal determination of eligibility. All the other properties included in the report have either lost too much of their historic integrity, are outside the area of potential effect or are not sufficiently distinguished to be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

\* Only remaining property within area of potential effect  
for present study

Bob Newbery  
April 25, 1996  
Page 2

When the requested documentation is completed, please submit an original and one copy through the appropriate channels for review and comment pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4.

In reviewing the Historic District Summary Survey forms for three potential historic districts also submitted for our review pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4 we have made the following determinations.

**County Fairgrounds Historic District** - We concur with the consultant's conclusion that this district is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places and that the boundaries are appropriately drawn.

**Virocqua Downtown Historic District** - We concur with the consultant's conclusion that this district is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. We suggest, however, that the historic boundaries for the district be expanded to include two other contributing resource: A) Service Station - 121 E. Decker St. and B) Modern Woodsman of America Hall - 124 E. Court Street.

**Westby Downtown Historic District** - We disagree with the consultant's conclusion that this district is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Instead we feel that the following three properties may be individually eligible for listing on the NRHP.

116 S. Main St. - (Map Code 70)  
114 S. Main St. - (Map Code 71)  
100 N. Main St. - (Map Code 75)

In our review of the survey report, we noted that it failed to include any identification or evaluation of the tobacco barns that so distinctively characterize this region of the state. Tobacco barns are a significant historic resource and one that should be documented by this report.

We would like to discuss this omission with you directly. Please let us know when you can schedule such a meeting to see how best to resolve this issue. If you have any questions regarding this matter please call me at (608) 264-6506.

Sincerely,

Richard A. Bernstein  
Historian, Compliance Section